

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 JERUSA 00686 01 OF 02 131122Z POSS DUPE
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 DHA-02 SSM-03 ACDA-07 TRSE-00
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00
NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AF-10
EUR-12 ORM-02 MCT-01 /106 W
-----131323Z 098445 /40

R 121505Z MAY 77
FM AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8964
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 JERUSALEM 686

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINS, PFOR, IS, JO
SUBJECT: JERUSALEM TEN YEARS AFTER - UNITED BUT DIVIDED

SUMMARY: ON THE TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE OCCUPATION
OF EAST JERUSALEM AND THE TRIPLING OF MUNICIPAL
BOUNDARIES BY ISRAEL, JERUSALEM PHYSICALLY AND
ADMINISTRATIVELY IS A UNITED CITY. GONE ARE THE UGLY
PHYSICAL BARRIERS THAT DIVIDED THE JEWISH AND THE ARAB
SECTIONS OF THE CITY BETWEEN 1948 AND 1967. A
MASSIVE ISRAELI BUILDING PROGRAM AND GERRY MANDERED
CITY LIMITS HAVE ENABLED THE JEWISH POPULATION TO
MAINTAIN ITS 3 TO 1 RATIO TO ARABS. HOWEVER,
POLITICALLY, CULTURALLY AND RELIGIOUSLY, JERUSALEM IS STILL
DIVIDED IN THE MINDS OF BOTH JEWS AND ARABS. END SUMMARY.

1. CELEBRATIONS MARKING THE TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF
THE "REUNIFICATION OF JERUSALEM" HAVE BEEN RELATIVELY
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 JERUSA 00686 01 OF 02 131122Z POSS DUPE

RESTRAINED SO FAR. (THE ISRAELI FLAG WAS
RAISED OVER THE OLD CITY ON JUNE 7, 1967. BY THE
HEBREW CALENDAR THE ANNIVERSARY FALLS ON MAY 16 BUT
SINCE THIS DATE IS ON THE EVE OF NATIONAL ELECTIONS
"JERUSALEM DAY" IS BEING OBSERVED MAY 12 THIS YEAR.)

2. DURING THE ISRAELI ADMINISTRATION, MUCH HAS BEEN

DONE TO ALTER THE CHARACTER OF JERUSALEM. TO JEWISH (WEST) JERUSALEM'S 9,000 ACRES, ISRAEL "ANNEXED" 18,000 ACRES OF ARAB TERRITORY CREATING A NEW ADMINISTRATIVE ENTITY WHICH IN 1967 CONTAINED 197,000 JEWS AND 68,000 ARABS (A RATIO OF 74 PERCENT TO 26 PERCENT). MOST OF THE ADDITIONAL LAND WAS SPARSELY POPULATED BY ARABS AND THE ENLARGED MUNICIPAL BOUNDARIES DELIBERATELY EXCLUDED LARGE ARAB POPULATION CENTERS TO THE NORTH AND SOUTH.

3. IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN THE JEWISH-ARAB RATIO IN THE ENLARGED MUNICIPALITY GIVEN THE MUCH HIGHER ARAB BIRTH RATE AND TO "CREATE FACTS," A MASSIVE BUILDING PROGRAM WAS LAUNCHED IN THE EARLY 'UPS WHICH RESULTED IN JERUSALEM BEING SURROUNDED BY LARGE ISRAELI HOUSING PROJECTS IN THE SOUTH, EAST AND NORTH. EVEN SOME ISRAELIS COMPLAIN THAT THE NEW DEVELOPMENTS APPEAR TO BE DESIGNED AS MUCH AS FORTIFICATIONS AS FOR HOUSING. THIS IS ESPECIALLY TRUE OF THE FRENCH HILL AREA AND THE EXPANDED MOUNT SCOPUS CAMPUS OF THE HEBREW UNIVERSITY ON HIGH HILLS TO THE NORTH OVERLOOKING THE OLD CITY. IN 1976, JERUSALEM'S POPULATION WITHIN THE EXPANDED CITY LIMITS WAS ESTIMATED AT 260,000 JEWS AND 100,000 ARABS WITH THE ARABS HAVING SLIGHTLY IMPROVED THEIR DEMOGRAPHIC RATIO (72 PERCENT TO 27.8 PERCENT).

4. HOWEVER, IF ONE LOOKS AT THE JERUSALEM METROPOLITAN AREA AS A WHOLE WHICH INCLUDES ARAB

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 JERUSA 00686 01 OF 02 131122Z POSS DUPE

TOWNS SUCH AS BETHLEHEM/BEIT JALA IN THE SOUTH AND RAMALLAH/EL BIREH IN THE NORTH, DEMOGRAPHIC DATA IS 250,000 JEWS AND 220,000 ARABS RESULTING IN A RATIO OF 53 PERCENT TO 47 PERCENT.

5. IN SPITE OF EXTENDING ISRAELI LAW AND JURISDICTION TO EAST JERUSALEM, ISRAEL HAS NOT INSISTED THAT ARAB RESIDENTS OF THE OCCUPIED AREA BECOME ISRAELI CITIZENS AND THUS THEY CONTINUE TO CLAIM JORDANIAN CITIZENSHIP. THIS MAKES IT POSSIBLE FOR EAST JERUSALEMITES TO TRAVEL, STUDY AND DO BUSINESS IN THE ARAB WORLD.

6. POLITICAL AND CULTURAL INTERCOURSE BETWEEN THE TWO COMMUNITIES IS VIRTUALLY NON-EXISTENT. ISRAEL WAS EAGER TO HAVE ARAB RESIDENTS PARTICIPATE IN THE MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS OF 1969 AND 1973 BUT THE ARABS, REJECTING ISRAEL'S CLAIM OF ANNEXATION OF ARAB JERUSALEM, REFUSED. THUS, MAYOR KOLLEK

AND THE JERUSALEM MUNICIPAL COUNCIL ADMINISTER THE ARAB AREAS OF THE CITY WITHOUT ANY ARAB PARTICIPATION IN THE CITY'S POLITICAL LIFE. SIMILARLY, ALL EFFORTS ON THE PART OF MAYOR KOLLEK AND OTHERS TO BUILD BRIDGES BETWEEN THE TWO COMMUNITIES HAVE PROVEN FRUITLESS. EAST JERUSALEMITES WILL NOT ATTEND SOCIAL OR PUBLIC FUNCTIONS AT WHICH ISRAELIS ARE PRESENT. MANY EAST JERUSALEMITES WILL NOT COME TO WEST (JEWISH) JERUSALEM EVEN TO THE CONSULATE GENERAL WHICH IS AMERICAN TERRITORY. CONVERSELY, MANY ISRAELIS ARE RELUCTANT TO VISIT ARAB SECTIONS OF THE CITY ALTHOUGH ON SATURDAYS MANY ISRAELIS SHOP IN EAST JERUSALEM AND THE OLD CITY. THERE IS, HOWEVER, QUIET BEHIND-THE-SCENES BUSINESS ACTIVITY BETWEEN THE TWO GROUPS.

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 JERUSA 00686 02 OF 02 131122Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 DHA-02 SSM-03 ACDA-07 TRSE-00
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00
NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AF-10
EUR-12 ORM-02 MCT-01 /106 W
-----131243Z 098468 /45

R 121505Z MAY 77
FM AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8965
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY JISDA
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

CONFIDENTIAL SECTION 2 OF 2 JERUSALEM 686

7. TO MANY ARABS AND JEWS, JERUSALEM REALLY MEANS THE OLD CITY - THE RELATIVELY SMALL AREA ENCLOSED WITHIN SULEIMAN THE MAGNIFICENT WALLS WITHIN WHICH THE HOLY PLACES ARE LOCATED. AFTER 1967, ISRAEL EXPROPRIATED THE AREA KNOWN AS THE JEWISH QUARTER AND LAUNCHED A BUILDING PROJECT WHICH HAS RESULTED IN THE CONSTRUCTION OF LUXURY HOUSING AND WHICH HAS BEEN TASTEFULLY DONE TO HARMONIZE WITH THE OTHER

QUARTERS WITHIN THE CITY WALL. THE CONSTRUCTION OF LUXURY BUILDINGS IN THE JEWISH QUARTER AND THE DEMOLITION OF A LARGE NUMBER OF OLDER STRUCTURES TO CREAESTE THE VAST ESPLANADE IN FRONT OF THE WESTERN WALL, TOGETHER WITH PROF. MAZAR'S EXTENSIVE EXCAVATIONS ADJACENT TO THE SOUTHERN WALL OF THE TEMPLE MOUNT AREA, ALTHOUGH AESTHETICALLY PLEASING TO WESTERN EYES, HAVE RESULTED IN SUBSTANTIAL CHANGES IN THE CHARACTER OF THE OLD CITY AS IT EXISTED PRIOR TO 1967.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 JERUSA 00686 02 OF 02 131122Z

8. CONCERNING THE HOLY PLACES, ISRAEL'S ADMINISTRATION HAS BEEN EXEMPLARY AND CONTRASTS FAVORABLY WITH JORDAN'S REFUSAL TO LET ISFAELIS VISIT THE WESTERN WALL DURING THE 19 YEARS IT ADMINISTERED EAST JERUSALEM.

9. ISRAELI ADMINISTRATION HAS RESULTED IN MATERIAL BENEFIT TO THE ARABS (THE LARGE ISRAELI HOUSING DEVELOMENTS IN WHICH THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT HAS INVESTED AT LEAST IL 3 BILLION WERE BUILT WITH ARAB LABOR FROM EAST JERUSALEM AND THE WEST BANK), AND MUNICIPAL SERVICES ARE AVAILABLE TO ALL WHO RESIDE IN THE EXPANDED CITY LIMITS WHO WISH TO USE THEM. HOWEVER, THE ARABS OF EAST JERUSALEM NO MORE THAN THE ARABS OF THE WEST BANK ARE RECONCILED TO PERMANENT ISRAELI OCCUPATION. THEY HAVE STOOD THEIR GROUND, THEY HAVE NOT FLED THEIR HOMES AND THEY BELPEVE THAT ONE DAY THEY WILL HAVE A SAY IN THEIR OWN AFFAIRS. THE ISRAELIS, FOR THEIR PART, INSIST THAT REUNIFIED JERUSALEM IS FOREVER THE CAPITAL OF ISRAEL, A CLAIM THAT NO MAJOR NATION HAS RECOGNIZED DE JURE.

10. OVER THE YEARS, VARIOUS EXPERTS AND GROUPS HAVE DRAFTED IMAGINATIVE PLANS DESIGNED TO TURN JERUALEM INTO JEWISH AND ARAB BOROUGHES WITH SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE JEWISH, MOSLEM AND CHRISTIAN RELIGIOUS SITES IN THE OLD CITY. SO FAR, ALL OF THESE PLANS, NOMATTER HOW INGENIOUS APPEAR INCAPABLE OF BRIDGING THE PRESENT GAP BETWEEN THE ISRAELI POSITION OF INDIVISIBL ISRAELI SOVEREIGNTY OVER REUNITED JERUSALEM AND THE ARAB DEMAND FOR TOTAL WITHDRAWL AND RESTORATION OF ARAB SOVEREIGNTY OVER THE AREA OCCUPIED IN 1967.

11. MERON BENEVENISTI, TEDDY KOLLEK'S DEPUTY,
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 JERUSA 00686 02 OF 02 131122Z

OBSERVES THAT OF THE THREE PROBLEM AREAS OF
ADMINISTRATION, THE HOLY PLACES, AND SOVEREIGNTY,
THE FIRST TWO APPEAR CAPABLE OF SOLUTION. NO ONE
YET HAS DEvised THE CREATIVE SOLVENT FOR THE SOVEREIGNTY
ISSUE.

NEWLIN

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ANNEXATION, COMMUNITY RELATIONS, REPORTS, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 12-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977JERUSA00686
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770169-0245
Format: TEL
From: JERUSALEM
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770566/aaaacevw.tel
Line Count: 234
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: cddeb695-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 5
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26-Jan-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2552015
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: JERUSALEM TEN YEARS AFTER - UNITED BUT DIVIDED SUMMARY: ON THE TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE OCCUPATION OF EAST JERUSALEM AND THE TRIPLING OF MUNICIPAL
TAGS: PINS, PFOR, IS, JO
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/cddeb695-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009